

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action dated April 15, 2010, claims 1-24 were pending in this application. Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 5-7, 14-17, and 21-24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2-4, 10-13, and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hind et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0203908) in view of Kasapi et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2007/0165552). Claims 1, 8, and 9 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hind et al in view of Ahl et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,448,753) and further in view of Kasapi et al.

In this Amendment, claims 4-6, 13-15, and 20-22 have been amended, and claims 1-3, 8-12, 18, and 19 have been cancelled, without prejudice, reserving right to prosecution in a continuation/divisional application. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Specifically, claims 5, 6, 14, 15, 21, and 22 have been amended to be independent form; and claims 4, 13, and 20 have been amended to be dependent on claims 5, 14, and 21, respectively. Claims 4-7, 13-17, and 20-24 are now active in this application, of which claims 5, 6, 14, 15, 21, and 22 are independent.

The present Amendment has rendered the prior art rejections of claims 1-4, 10-13, and 18-20 moot by the cancellation of claims 1-3, 8-12, 18, and 19, and the amendments to claims 4, 13, and 20 to be dependent on allowable claims 5, 14, and 21, respectively. Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims is respectfully solicited.

Applicants, therefore, submit that this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a

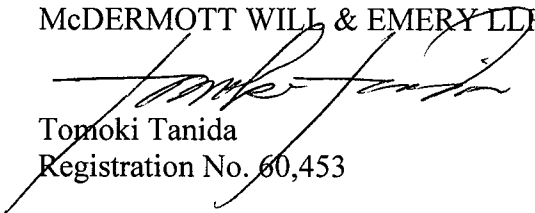
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telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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